

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 8 and 17-19 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 9 and 14 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 1-7 and 9-16 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1176493 to Pathuel in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0188077 to Susen et al.; and claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pathuel in view of Susen et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,904,526 to Hongwei. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

The Office Action correctly recognizes that Pathuel does not teach or suggest a controller searching a database for address information related to a telephone number corresponding to a telephone dialing request operation, in which when a password check flag indicates that a password check is needed, starts an unauthorized use preventing operation. However, the Office Action incorrectly asserts that Susen et al. teaches these features.

Namely, paragraphs 0022 to 0035 of Susen et al. describe a system in which, when a user desires to make a telephone call, the user must first be validated, and then information on the validated user is checked in a memory storing a list of data records, to determine whether or not the user can make a particular phone call (e.g., a long distance phone call).

Thus, a user in the system of Susen et al. is always validated prior to making a telephone call, and a check is then made to determine if the validated user can make a particular phone call, such as a call to Russia.

In claim 1, on the other hand, a password check is not always performed on the user, which is in contrast to the system of Susen et al. that first performs a validation check on a user no matter which phone call the user desires to make.

Presently pending independent claims 1, 9 and 14 have been amended to include the features of dependent claims 17-19, respectively, to make the above distinctions more explicit. In other words, when performing a second telephone dialing request operation, no password check is performed in the presently pending claims, whereby such a password check would still be performed in the combined system of Pathuel and Susen et al.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 1, 9 and 14 are patentable over the combined teachings of Pathuel and Susen et al.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 17, 2008

By Phillip J. Articola

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6014
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

George C. Beck
Registration No. 38,072

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819